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11 July 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Soviet and Satellite Officials in the United States

1. Reference is made to the attached letter dated 30 June 1949 addressed to you from Senator Pat McCarran, Chairman of the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary, wherein certain information from the files of the Central Intelligence Agency was requested on the above-outlined subject.

2. After a careful review of the files of OSO concerning the 100 individuals in question, we submit the following answers to the questions as outlined by Senator McCarran for inclusion in the public record of the Senate Immigration and Naturalization Subcommittee:

Question I - "How many of the persons whose names appeared on the list of 100 names have been engaged in subversive activity prior to their assumption of official duty in the United States.....?"

Answer - Since Senator McCarran further defined his use of the term "subversive" as "active participation in foreign intelligence organizations or active Communist organizational work, rather than mere membership in the Communist Party," we have attempted to organize our reply in accordance with his definition:

- a. On fifteen of the names appearing on the list, the files of OSO/CIA currently reflect no pertinent identifiable information.
- b. Thirty-two of the individuals on the list have reportedly or allegedly been engaged in active work for the intelligence services of their respective countries.
- c. Twenty-one of the individuals have reportedly or allegedly been engaged in active Communist organizational work of an underground or subversive nature outside their homelands.
- d. Twenty-nine of the individuals are high-ranking Communist Party officials. Although no specific reports on their actual subversive organizational activities have been received, it must be assumed that, by virtue of their positions, they are working ardently for the benefit of their governments, which activity, by definition and in the light of known Communist methods, must be considered to be subversive and against the interests of the United States.

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- e. Three of the individuals on the list reportedly show definite Anglo-American sympathies and/or disaffection with Communist ideology.

Question II - "Describe a typical pattern or typical patterns of such subversive activity and a typical background or typical backgrounds of such persons who have been engaged in such subversive activity."

Answer - Typical Pattern - From the available data, it can be surmised that the majority of known Soviet and Satellite diplomatic officials who enter a foreign country with the purpose of conducting or controlling espionage and/or subversive activity concern themselves primarily with the following tasks:

- a. Reporting on political, economic, industrial and military conditions of the country concerned. This activity is carried out both through the collection of overt information from newspapers, periodicals, or radio, and through agents placed within strategic installations, as a corollary of this activity, an attempt is made to recruit and place agents against the time when the diplomatic official is required to return to his homeland.
- b. Arrangement of communications facilities through which agents can make their reports either to Soviet or Satellite diplomatic installations within the country, or directly to the homeland. In this connection, reports have been received of attempts of these officials to organize Communist Party cells among seamen serving on vessels sailing to the homeland. These seamen are then utilized as couriers.
- c. Surveilling and controlling the activities of Soviet and Satellite diplomatic personnel assigned to the country concerned as well as the activities of delegates from the homeland who enter the country to attend conventions or meetings, assuring that such personnel do not defect or become politically unreliable through contact with Western influences.
- d. Disseminating party line propaganda within the foreign country. Also sending propaganda about conditions in the country back to the homeland in the form of articles designed to encourage unfavorable sentiment against the country.
- e. Work with immigrant groups who have settled in the country from the homeland or with citizens with former homeland connections. This activity is apparently regarded as particularly important. Attempts are made to activate Communist groups within immigrant elements. Immigrants are encouraged to send the more stable currency of the country back to the homeland where, when exchanged

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at an official rate, it represents a considerable income for the homeland government. Efforts are made to recruit immigrants to work for the homeland government and to use their established businesses, such as shipping or export-import firms, as a cover for the intelligence activities of the homeland. Networks are organized within immigrant groups in order to check native personnel abroad, to control immigrants and former natives and indoctrinate them in the party line. Strong efforts are made to break up any anti-Soviet or anti-Satellite sentiments among immigrant groups. Attempts are also made to establish financial and commercial contacts with the immigrant groups for the benefit of the homeland.

- f. Act as intermediaries between the Communist Party of the foreign country concerned and the Communist Party of the homeland. Maintain communications and often procure funds for the homeland Communist Party.
- g. Organize pressure groups within the foreign country concerned in order to combat certain political or military measures being considered by that country which are deemed unfavorable toward the Soviet-Satellite axis.

It has also been noted that Satellite diplomatic officials operating in a foreign country with a subversive or espionage mission usually maintain close contact with and may be directed by Soviet representatives in that country.

Question II -

Answer - Typical Background - Soviet and Satellite diplomatic officials who have been selected to carry out espionage or subversive activities in foreign countries vary widely in their backgrounds, qualifications, and training. A study, however, of available background information has disclosed certain characteristics which it may be of interest to note.

Primarily, the official chosen is an individual in whom the Communist regime of his homeland places the greatest confidence as to political reliability. He is often an old line Communist who has served the Party faithfully over a period of years. Many of these Satellite officials have spent some time in the Soviet Union and some have served in the Soviet Army. Others have gained their position in the Communist hierarchy through their service with Partisan guerrillas during the war.

Many of the officials have records of long time diplomatic careers in the service of their countries. These often are described as unscrupulous and opportunistic individuals who find it to their advantage to serve faithfully the regime in power. That they serve well is implicit in the confidence which the Communists apparently place in them.

It is of interest to note that many of these officials have had legal training and have practiced as lawyers. Quite a few also have journalistic

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backgrounds. Not much mention is made of technical espionage training, although it may be assumed that many, particularly the old line Communists and those who have visited the USSR, have received indoctrination of this type.

It is of further interest that the wives of many of these men are ardent Communists in their own right and occasionally even act as agents themselves. They are mentioned as exerting strong influences on their husbands.

In conclusion, these officials do not appear to be, in most cases, men of high moral standards or idealistic motivation. Many of them are described as clever, unscrupulous, opportunistic, ambitious, and given to shady financial deals or occasional black marketing.

3. With regard to Questions III and IV concerning the intelligence and subversive activities of officials of foreign governments within the United States, it is respectfully suggested that Senator McCarran be referred to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for this information, since the collection of data of this nature does not fall within the jurisdiction of this Agency.


Assistant Director
Office of Special Operations

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Attachment: 1
Reference No.: SO DB-17171

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):
